

Sinclair Broadcasting's mandate that its stations air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear abuse of the privilege it has been granted to own and operate media outlets in this country.

Sinclair has been granted the use of public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. In return, Sinclair has a duty to act responsibly and objectively. Instead, Sinclair is acting as a partisan supporter of the Bush campaign, using its ownership of television stations around the country to present a one-sided and factually distorted view of Senator Kerry. That it seeks to air this anti-Kerry film shortly before the Presidential election is evidence of its disregard for its role in the supposedly objective realm of political journalism.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen enforcement of the rules that are designed to ensure media outlets properly service the communities in which they operate.

Thank you.